period and what is the amount spent by Government on their foreign visits and the 'Head' under which this amount was sanctioned; and

(d) in what way the people of the country have been benefited from the foreign visits made by the Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

China's Technical Expertise to Pakistan

531. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether latest U.S. intelligence reports disclose that China had stepped up the shipments of special steels, guidance systems and technical expertise to Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government; and

(c) what steps Government would take to persuade China to stop missile proliferation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Government has seen the US media reports, which state that the US Intellegence agencies have reported in classified briefings to the US Congress and the US Government that China has stepped up the shipment of special steels, guidance systems and technical expertise to Pakistan. A senior US official had started on the 8th July, at the conclusion of the US-China non-proliferation talks in Beijing, that the US raised its concerns over the reports that China's entries had provided assistance to missile programmes in Pakistan and other countries.

(b) Government has taken note of the information contained in the media reports. Government continues to view with serious

concern the ongoing missile related cooperation between Pakistan and China. Government is alert to all developments that have a bearing on India's security.

(c) Government has been conveying to the international community its own assessment of the continuing nuclear and missile co-operation between China and Pakistan and has taken up this matter with the concerned countries.

Outcome of foreign Minister's visits to Foreign Countries

532. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Sri Lanka and some other foreign countries during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details of his visit abroad, nature of discussion with his counterparts/outcome thereof; and

(c) whether any Agreements were signed between India and other countries; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed below.

Statement

Country/ Dates of visit	Nature of discussion and outcome	Agreement signed, if any
1	2	3
Iran (May 19 23, 2000)	Attended 11th meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission, held discussion on bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues.	An MOU was signed to establish a Joint-Committee on the supply of Iranian Gas to India